

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 remain in the case. Claims 1-13, 15-19 and 21-28 are rejected. Claims 14 and 20 are objected to. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

Formal Rejections

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claim 8 in light of the Examiner's rejection and submits the amended version above for the review of the Examiner.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Bridges.

Claims 1,2,4,9,10,16,22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Walls.

The limitations of claim 4 have been introduced into claim 1. Claim 1 as amended recites that the handle has "an opposing end that is **free standing** and configured for being held by a user." Bridges discloses a handle with an "opposing end" at 20 (see Figs. 1-2) that is coupled about cup 10 and **not free standing**. Walls discloses a handle 90 (see Fig. 8) having a ring 91 that "engages the tapered body portion of the member 11" (see col. 4, lines 61-62). Thus, Walls similarly does **not** disclose a handle having a freestanding end opposing the bottom attachment end.

Independent Claim 9 has been amended to recite "a base member ... configured with said liquid holding member and said handle to obscure the attachment end of said handle from view" and "a single fastener that in cooperation with the configuration of the liquid holding member and handle fixedly secures said liquid holding member, said handle and said base member."

Firstly, the attachment end of the handle of Walls is clearly visible, not **obscured by the base**. Secondly, the handle in Walls merely clips onto a round body and thus can rotate around the container and hence is not **fixedly secured**.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of allowed claim 20 and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 22 as amended recites a base member "configured in cooperation with said shell, lining and handle to secure said handle to said shell in a fixed and non-rotatable manner." As stated above, Walls teaches a handle that can be rotated about the container, Walls does not teach "fixed and non-rotatable" securing of the handle.

Claims 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Liu.

Claim 22 recites "a handle member extending from a bottom region of said vessel." The handle in Liu extends from the top. Furthermore, Liu does not include a "base member," but provides a non-slip pad 180.

With respect to the dependent claims, Applicant submits that the dependent claims are allowable due to their dependency from allowable base (and intervening) claims and/or due to their individual limitations. For example, the dependent claims recite the following subject matter that is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Claim 2 recites a fastener "that secures said handle between said base member and said liquid holding member."

Claim 4 has been amended into independent form and is allowable claim 14 rewritten to include its base and intervening claims.

Claim 10 recites that the base member "secures the attachment end of said handle substantially between said liquid holding member and said base member, and the handle end of said handle is free standing and configured for being held by a user."

Claim 25 recites that the "handle has a first end that is coupled between said shell and base member and an opposing end that is free standing and configured for being held by a user."

Claim 26 includes a limitation similar to allowable claim 16.

Claim 28 recites a single fastener for joining the handle and other components.

Claims 3,5,6-8,10-13,15,17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Walls in view of Liu.

Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable due to their dependence from allowable claims and their own limitations. For

example, these dependent claims recite the following subject matter, among other, that is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Claim 6 recites "a single fastener that in cooperation with the configuration of the liquid holding member and handle fixedly and non-rotatably secures said lining, shell, handle and base member." Claims 15 and 21 also recite a single fastener.

Claim 8 recites that "one of said shell and said handle includes a protrusion and the other of said shell and said handle includes a corresponding recess, the protrusion engaging the recess for securing said handle to said shell."

Claim 17 recites that "the attachment end of said handle is coupled to said liquid holding member and an opposing user end of said handle is free standing and configured for being held by a user."

Claim 20 recites that the "base member is configured with said liquid holding member and said handle to obscure the attachment end of said handle from view."

Applicant respectfully submits that these limitations in their respective combinations are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

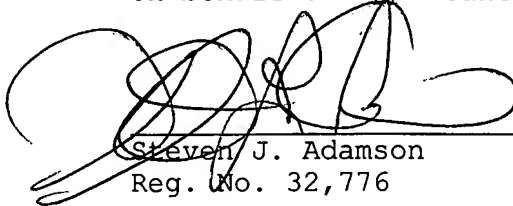
In view of the foregoing Amendments and these Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-28 are now in condition for allowance and early notification of same is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would help further the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the listed telephone number.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge underpayment of any fees (including any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 for additional claims and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. \$1.17 including any fee for extension of time) associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-0272. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted
on behalf of Applicant,

Date: _____

5-19-06



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